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Cornus kousa. This is the Asiatic representative of the Flowering Dogwood of the eastern states (*Cornus florida*) and of the Flowering Dogwood of the Northwest (*Cornus Nuttallii*). *C. kousa* was one of the Japanese plants which reached the United States in the early years of Japanese plant introduction into this country, and although it has never become common in American gardens it is occasionally seen in those of Boston and New York. The white bracts which surround the head of flowers and are a conspicuous feature of all the Cornels of this group are narrowed and placed further apart on *C. kousa* than on the eastern Flowering Dogwood, and are long-pointed and not, as in the American plant, rounded or emarginate at the apex. On the American plant the end of the bract is often discolored, while in the Asiatic plant the bracts are pure white to the tips. The flower-buds of *C. florida* are often killed in Massachusetts in severe winters but the extreme cold of recent years has not injured those of *C. kousa*. The Japanese plants bloom several weeks later than *C. florida* and when the leaves are nearly fully grown. In Japan it sometimes becomes a small tree with a single trunk; in this country, so far as we have observed, it grows always as a shrub with several erect stems. In central China *Cornus kousa* was found by Wilson, and a plant from his Chinese seed is well established among the Chinese plants on the southern slope of Bussey Hill where it is now a shrub about twelve feet high with numerous erect stems. It is handsomer than any of the Japanese forms with longer and broader floral bracts often overlapping below the middle. In the Arboretum the head of bracts is sometimes four and a half inches broad and in China Wilson measured them five inches across.

On a Japanese plant the heads of bracts here are rarely three and one half inches in diameter. The Chinese plant flowered first in the Arboretum in 1917 and the flower-buds have never been injured by cold. It is blooming more freely than ever before and is an object of great beauty. In China it grows as a small tree with a trunk sometimes a foot in diameter and there is no reason probably why it cannot be trained as a tree in this climate. The fact that it blooms when the leaves are nearly fully grown adds to the value of this Asiatic Cornel, and it is certainly when in flower one of the most ornamental small trees or shrubs found by Wilson in China. On the American plants the scarlet fruits are gathered in an erect head and are not united as in the Asiatic plants. This habit of the fruit adds to the beauty of the plant in the autumn when the leaves assume the brilliant colors of those of the eastern American plant. The Chinese form of *C. kousa* fruits freely in the Arboretum, and there is no reason why it should not become common in American gardens where it certainly should be one of the handsomest of the plants recently introduced into this country by the Arboretum.

Cornus rugosa. Attention is called again to the value of this common native shrub for the decoration of parks and gardens where, like many other eastern American shrubs, it is rarely seen. *C. rugosa* or *C. circinnati*, the name by which it is best known, is a shrub sometimes ten feet high which with plenty of space spreads into broad thickets. The young branches are green blotched with purple, becoming purple as they grow older. The leaves are broad, sometimes nearly circular and dark bluish green; the flowers are ivory white, in compact clusters, and are followed in the early autumn by bright blue or nearly white fruits. This Cornel has been much planted in the Arboretum and has been greatly improved by cultivation.

Hydrangea petiolaris. The specimen of this vine, the Japanese Climbing Hydrangea, on the southeastern corner of the Administration Building, is one of the great sights of the Arboretum at this season of the year when it is covered with flower-clusters from the ground to the eaves of the building. The leaves of few plants unfold here as early in the spring, and there is but one other climbing plant with conspicuous flowers really hardy in this climate, *Schizophragma hydrangeoides*, able to attach itself to a brick or stone wall or to the trunk of a tree. The flower-clusters of the Climbing Hydrangea are surrounded by a circle of white sterile flowers from eight to ten inches in diameter; they are terminal on short lateral branches which stand out from the main stem of the plant and give it an irregular surface which adds to its beauty and interest. This Hydrangea was first raised at the Arboretum in 1878 and can now be occasionally seen in American gardens. It might be better known and more generally used for there is no other plant so well suited to cover the brick or stone walls of buildings in the northern United States. *Schizophragma hydrangeoides*, which is also a native of Japan, can be seen on the wall of the Administration Building next to the Climbing Hydrangea where it blooms later. Several Chinese shrubby species of Hydrangea open at this time their flowers which are arranged in broad flat-topped clusters surrounded by a ring of large pure white ray flowers. The best known

of these, *H. Bretschneideri*, is a native of the mountains near Peking and was first raised in the Arboretum twenty-five years ago; it is a vigorous hardy plant with dark green leaves, and one of the best shrubs which flower here after the middle of June. Closely related to it are *Hydrangea xanthoneura* and its varieties *Wilsonii* and *setchuenensis*, and *H. Rosthornii* raised here from seed collected by Wilson in western China. These plants are hardy and can now be seen covered with flowers in the collection of Chinese shrubs on the southern slope of Bussey Hill. As garden plants they do not appear to be superior to *H. Bretschneideri*.

Sophora viciifolia. There are not many shrubs with blue flowers which are hardy in this climate and none of them are as satisfactory as this *Sophora*. It is a native of central and western China where it is a common shrub in dry hot valleys. In the Arboretum it is a shapely plant about four feet high and perfectly hardy, producing freely its small blue and white pea-shaped flowers. It is one of the most attractive of the small shrubs introduced by Wilson from China, and it can now be seen in bloom on Hickory Path near Centre Street.

Syringa Sweginzowii is considered by many persons the most beautiful of the new species of Lilac introduced into gardens from China in recent years. It is a tall narrow shrub with dull green leaves and narrow clusters of fragrant flowers half an inch long, flesh-colored in the bud, and becoming nearly white when the flowers open. This species blooms freely as a small plant, and is perhaps the most attractive of the new Lilacs, although the flowers are not as fragrant as those of *S. pubescens* which has been an inhabitant of the Arboretum for nearly a quarter of a century. It has the merit of being almost the last of the Lilacs in the Arboretum to bloom and it should be much better known than it is now.

Syringa reflexa, which is perhaps the most distinct and certainly one of the most beautiful of the Lilacs recently discovered, has been blooming more freely than usual this year. The flower-cluster is compact, cylindric, unbranched, from an inch to an inch and a quarter in diameter, long-stalked, arching and reflexed. The flowers are deep rose color in bud becoming nearly white, with a long slender corolla-tube, and have a more disagreeable odor than those of *S. villosa*, to which this species and *S. Komarowii* are closely related, as shown in its ample leaves dark green on the upper surface and somewhat pale and slightly hairy on the lower surface. *S. Komarowii* differs from *S. reflexa* in the large, long-branched flower-clusters which are erect, spreading or nodding, and sometimes eighteen inches long and twelve inches across.

Syringa villosa. Of the comparatively late flowering Lilacs none perhaps is more valuable than *S. villosa* which was raised at the Arboretum nearly forty years ago and has now been carried into many American gardens. It is a tall round-topped shrub with large leaves and compact, broad or narrow clusters of pale rose-colored or nearly white flowers which unfortunately have the disagreeable odor of Privet flowers. In spite of this disagreeable odor of the flowers this Lilac is a first-rate garden plant, and particularly valuable because it does not

begin to bloom until most of the varieties of the common Lilac have faded. It also promises to be a successful parent in producing new forms by crossing it with varieties of the common Lilac. It has already produced in France by crossing it with the Hungarian *S. Josikaea* a race of beautiful hybrids to which the name of *S. Henryi* has been given. One of the handsomest of these hybrids, *S. Lutèce*, covers itself every year with large open clusters of red-violet flowers and is perhaps one of the handsomest of all Lilacs.

Spiraea Veitchii is the last of the white-flowered Spiraeas to bloom here. It is a shrub as it grows in the Arboretum from eight to ten feet high with numerous slender stems and gracefully arching branches which by the middle of July are covered from end to end with broad flower-clusters raised on erect stems. It is one of the best plants introduced by Wilson from western China, and by many persons it is considered the handsomest of the genus as it appears in the Arboretum.

Brooms. By moving them from the low ground of the Shrub Collection to the comparatively dry warm border on the southern slope of Bussey Hill it has been shown that a much larger number of species can be successfully grown in this country than was formerly supposed when only a few of these plants were cultivated in the Arboretum. There are now at least a dozen species and varieties of these plants well established on Bussey Hill and many of them have flowered profusely this year.

Tree Lilacs. As the flowers of the late flowering group of Lilacs fade the earliest flowers of the so-called Tree Lilacs begin to open. There are three of these Lilacs which bear large clusters of white or yellowish white flowers which have the disagreeable odor of the flowers of the Privet, and, like those of the Privets, the leaves fall in the autumn without change of color. The first of these plants to bloom, *Syringa amurensis*, a native of eastern Siberia, is a shrub twelve or fifteen feet high, with dark close bark, broad thick leaves dark green above and pale below, and short, broad, unsymmetrical flower-clusters. *S. pekinensis* flowers next; this is also shrubby in habit, sometimes twenty feet tall and broad, with stout spreading stems covered with yellow-brown bark separating readily into thin flakes like that of some of the Birch-trees, dark green narrow pointed leaves, and short unsymmetrical flower-clusters usually in pairs at the ends of the branches. This species holds its leaves later in the autumn than the others and produces great clusters of flowers every year; the other species usually flower abundantly only every other year. The last of the Tree Lilacs to flower, *S. japonica*, is a native of northern Japan, and is generally a tree sometimes forty feet high, with a tall straight trunk covered with lustrous brown bark, like the bark of a Cherry-tree, a round-topped head of upright branches, broad, thick, dark green leaves, and erect mostly symmetrical flower-clusters from twelve to eighteen inches in length. It is one of the handsomest of the small trees which bloom here at the end of June or early in July, and appears to be more common in cultivation now than the other species of this group. These three plants can be seen growing on the bank in the rear of the path which leads through the Syringa Collection.